

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A piping bag comprising a thin, disposable flexible pouch with an expressible, viscous medium sealed therein, said pouch collapsing on the expression of said medium therefrom; said pouch having a neck portion adjacent one axial end thereof having a conically reducing transverse cross-section;

nozzle means including a funnel-like nozzle base comprising conically inclined wall portions and a spout portion connected in flow relationship therewith;

said conically inclined wall portions having surface dislocations thereon;

said nozzle base being disposed at least in part within said pouch with neck portions thereof in frictional, wedged relationship with said conically inclined wall portions so as to create a seal thereon, with said surface dislocations coacting with said pouch to provide an enhanced gripping relationship therewith tending to resist reactive forces generated by said pouch to urge said nozzle base out of is gripped, sealed relationship to thereby retain said nozzle base in its sealed relationship solely by frictional means, so as to permit the removal of said nozzle base from said pouch at the time of disposal thereof and the re-use of said nozzle base;

said nozzle means further comprising a nozzle cap disposed outside of said pouch;

said nozzle base and said nozzle cap including complementary coupling means for selectively coupling said nozzle cap to said nozzle base with portions of said pouch trapped therebetween; and security seal means covering the outlet of said spout portion to prevent the expression of said medium from said pouch.

2. (Amended). A piping bag with a disposable pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said coupling means comprises thread means formed on said nozzle base and mating thread means formed on said nozzle cap.

3. (Amended). A piping bag with a disposable pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said security seal means is unitarily formed with said pouch.

4. (Amended). A piping bag with a disposable pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said nozzle cap is elongated and has a bore therethrough to form a nozzle tip.

5. (Amended). A piping bag with a disposable pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said pouch has a relatively constant radial cross section in upper portions thereof.

6. (Amended). A piping bag with a disposable pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said pouch is shrink fitted onto said conical wall portions.

7. (Amended). A piping bag with a disposable pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said surface dislocations are in the form of a plurality of axially spaced apart ribs.

8. (Amended). A piping bag with a disposable pouch as set forth in claim 1 wherein said spout portion is connected to said conically inclined wall portions by a shoulder, and wherein said nozzle cap traps portions of said pouch against said shoulder.

[9. A disposable piping bag as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said security seal means is disposed at the outlet to said spout portion of said nozzle base.]

10. (Amended). A kit suitable for domestic use for forming a piping bag with a disposable pouch formed from a thin, flexible film material expandable between a flat, generally two dimensional form when empty and a three dimensional form when filled, said pouch having axially opposed ends, one said end defining a fill opening for said pouch, the opposed end defining an outlet end, said outlet end having a progressively diminishing width therealong;

comprising, in association

a disposable pouch;

a nozzle means comprising a base portion having a truncated conical wall with outwardly raised surface dislocations thereon, said base portion being dimensioned to permit its insertion into said pouch through said fill opening so as to be snugly received in wedged relationship in said outlet end of said pouch and thereby form a seal therebetween; with portions thereof held in tightly gripped relationship with said surface dislocations so as to be capable of retaining said nozzle base in said wedged, sealed relationship solely by frictional means whereby said nozzle base may be recovered from said pouch for re-use, and a cap portion;

said base portion and said cap portion including complementary coupling means separate from said surface dislocations for selectively coupling together said portions with a portion of the film forming said pouch trapped therebetween, to thereby assist in retaining said first base portion when inserted into said pouch in its tightly gripped position;

said coupling means permitting the selective decoupling of said portions to permit a variety of different ones of said cap portion to couple to said first part.

11.(Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 10 wherein said coupling means comprises thread means formed on said nozzle base and mating thread means formed on said nozzle cap.

[12. A kit for forming a disposable piping bag as set forth in claim 10 wherein said nozzle base portion includes a truncated conical wall having surface dislocations thereon.]

13. (Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 10 wherein said nozzle cap portion is tubular and is open at each end.

14. (Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 10 wherein said pouch has a relatively constant radial cross section in upper portions thereof.

15. (Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 10 wherein said pouch is at least at said outlet end, constructed from a heat shrinkable thermo-plastic material.

16. (Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 10 wherein said surface dislocations comprise a plurality of separate, spaced apart ribs.

17. (Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 16 wherein said base portion includes a spout portion which connects to said conical portion at a shoulder.

18. (Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 10 wherein said pouch includes matable sealing means adjacent said fill opening.

19. (Amended). A kit as set forth in claim 10 wherein said outlet end of said pouch terminates in a nipple.

20. (Amended). A kit as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said outlet end of said pouch is open, and wherein said nozzle base portion is closed with an anti-tamper seal.

21. (Amended). A kit as defined in claim 10 wherein said pouch is disposed in a web.

22.(Amended). A re-usable nozzle means for forming a piping bag with a disposable plastic film pouch, said nozzle means comprising a funnel-shaped nozzle base including truncated conical funnel walls and a funnel spout connected to said funnel walls in flow relationship;

a nozzle cap;

coupling means for selectively coupling and decoupling said base and said cap;

said funnel walls being generally smooth, with a plurality of surface dislocations raised thereon separate from said coupling means; which dislocations are intended to provide a gripping function for holding said nozzle base in wedged relationship within a said disposable pouch having a conical taper at the outlet end thereof solely by frictional means whereby said nozzle base may be recovered from said pouch for re-use at the time of disposal of said pouch.

23. A nozzle means as defined in claim 22 wherein said coupling means comprises male thread portions disposed on said spout and complementary thread portions formed on said cap.

24. A nozzle means as defined in claim 22 wherein said cap is elongated and has a bore therethrough to form a nozzle tip.

25. A nozzle means as defined in claim 22 wherein said surface dislocations comprise a plurality of separate, spaced apart ribs.

26. A nozzle means as defined in claim 22 wherein said nozzle base at least is manufactured from stainless steel.

27. (New) A piping bag as defined in Claim 1 wherein said nozzle base at least is manufactured from stainless steel.

28.(New) A kit as defined in Claim 10 wherein said nozzle base at least is manufactured from stainless steel.